

Message Text

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52

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 /108 W
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R 262151 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI UNN

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2406

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CO

SUBJECT: MILITARY JUDGE RELEASES 45 OF 93 ELN URBAN NET SUSPECT

USCINCSO FOR POLAD & J-2

REF: BOGOTA'S A-396 OF NOVEMBER 16, 1972

1. ON MARCH 24 THE COMMANDER OF THE FIFTEH BRIGADE AND SOLE JUDGE IN THE TRIAL OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN) URBAN NET, GENERAL RAMON ARTURO RINCON QUINONEZ ORDERED THE RELEASE OF 45 OF THE 93 ALLEGED MEMBERS ELN URBAN NET STILL BEING DETAINED:

2. THE PROVISIONAL RELEASE OF SUSPECTED ELN MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN IN JAIL SINCE JULY, RESULTED FROM A DECISION BY THE SUPERIOR MILITARY TRIBUNAL THAT THE CHARGE AGAINST THEM WAS REBELLION. IN LIGHT OF THIS DECISION GENERAL RINCON ORDERED THE RELEASE OF THE 45, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 532 OF THE PENAL CODE, AS THEY HAD ALREADY COMPLETED THE MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR REBELLION IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION.

3. THE 48 OTHER SUSPECTS STILL BEING DETAINED ARE TO BE TRIED BY CORTS MARTIAL NEXT MONTH IN BUCARAMANGA.

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4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO NOTICEABLE PUBLIC REACTION OR EDITORIAL COMMENT YET ON THE RELEASES, THEY MAY, WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER WITH EARLIER RELEASES AND THE CONTINUED POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELN URBAN GUERRILLA TRIAL, UNDERMINE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE MILITARY'S CASE AGAINST THE ELN URBAN GUERRILLA NET. THE ARMY IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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